

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-85. (canceled)

86. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 85,~~

A method for facilitating transport of a substance through an area of skin of a subject, the area defining a set of ablation sites, the method comprising:

driving current in a sequence into more than one of the ablation sites, the current being capable of ablating stratum corneum of the skin in the ablation sites, so as to facilitate transdermal transport of the substance, the sequence being configured such that, during successive first, second, and third time periods the current is driven into respective first, second, and third ones of the ablation sites, the first ablation site being non-adjacent to the second ablation site, and the second ablation site being non-adjacent to the third ablation site,

wherein driving the current in the sequence comprises configuring the sequence to generally maximize a minimum distance between ablation sites into which current is driven during successive time periods.

87. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 85,~~

A method for facilitating transport of a substance through an area of skin of a subject, the area defining a set of ablation sites, the method comprising:

driving current in a sequence into more than one of the ablation sites, the current being capable of ablating stratum corneum of the skin in the ablation sites, so as to facilitate transdermal transport of the substance, the sequence being configured such that, during successive first, second, and third time periods the current is driven into respective first, second, and third ones of the ablation sites, the first ablation site being non-adjacent to the second ablation site, and the second ablation site being non-adjacent to the third ablation site,

wherein a sum of distances between temporally adjacent ones of the ablation sites into which current is driven is typically greater than such sum would be if the sequence is generated randomly.

88. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~85~~ 87, wherein driving the current comprises driving the current during 10 successive time periods, the sequence being configured such that a distance between successive sites of application of the current during each of the periods is greater than 1 mm.

89. (original) A method according to claim 88, wherein driving the current during the 10 successive time periods, comprises configuring the sequence such that a distance between successive sites of application of the current during each of the periods is greater than 3 mm.

90. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~85~~ 87, wherein driving the current comprises driving the current during at least 10 successive time periods into respective ones of the ablation sites, the sequence being configured such that, for each of the periods, during temporally adjacent ones of the time periods, the current is driven into non-adjacent ablation sites.

91. (original) A method according to claim 90, wherein driving the current comprises configuring the current such that during the at least 10 successive time periods, none of the ablation sites into which current is driven is adjacent to another one of the ablation sites into which current is driven.

92. (canceled)

93. (currently amended) Apparatus for facilitating transport of a substance through an area of skin of a subject, the area defining a set of ablation sites, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of electrodes, which are adapted to be placed in contact with the area of the skin at the ablation sites; and

a control unit, adapted to drive, during successive first, second, and third time periods, a current capable of ablating stratum corneum of the skin to a first one, a second one, and a third one of the electrodes, the first one of the electrodes being non-adjacent to the second one of the electrodes, and the second one of the electrodes being non-adjacent to the third one of the electrodes, so as to facilitate transdermal transport of the substance,

~~Apparatus according to claim 92~~, wherein the control unit is adapted to typically maximize a minimum distance between electrodes into which current is driven during successive time periods.

94. (currently amended) Apparatus for facilitating transport of a substance through an area of skin of a subject, the area defining a set of ablation sites, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of electrodes, which are adapted to be placed in contact with the area of the skin at the ablation sites; and

a control unit, adapted to drive, during successive first, second, and third time periods, a current capable of ablating stratum corneum of the skin to a first one, a second one, and a third one of the electrodes, the first one of the electrodes being non-adjacent to the second one of the electrodes, and the second one of the electrodes being non-adjacent to the third one of the electrodes, so as to facilitate transdermal transport of the substance,

~~Apparatus according to claim 92~~, wherein the control is adapted to drive the current such that a sum of distances between temporally adjacent ones of the electrodes into which current is driven is typically greater than such sum would be if a sequence of electrodes is generated randomly.

95. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 92 94, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the current during 10 successive time periods, such that a distance between successive sites of application of the current during each of the periods is greater than 1 mm.

96. (original) Apparatus according to claim 95, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the current during 10 successive time periods, such that a distance between successive sites of application of the current during each of the periods is greater than 3 mm.

97. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 92 94, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the current during at least 10 successive time periods into respective ones of the electrodes, such that, for each of the periods, during temporally adjacent ones of the time periods, the current is driven into non-adjacent electrodes.

98. (original) Apparatus according to claim 97, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the current during the at least 10 successive time periods, such that during none of the time periods is the current driven into adjacent electrodes.

99-124. (canceled)